

# SCOUR WOODS FOR BURGLARSS FOILED AFTER BATTLE IN DARK

### Washington Suburb Scene of Pistol Fight Between De- fenders of Home and Big Bandit Gang.

**Snelton Groves Shot in Wrist,  
and One of Marauders  
Thought to Have Been  
Wounded.**

All Alexandria county is aroused, and officers and posses are scouring the countryside today in search of a band of daring men who engaged in a pitched battle with the three sons of James S. Groves, wealthy realty operator, living near Mt. Ida, when they were surprised in a daring attempt at robbery of the Groves home.

Shelton Groves, twenty-two years old, one of the brothers, was injured in the battle, in which more than twenty shots were fired.

As yet no trace has been found of the gang, who were last seen retreating under fire down the road toward Alexandria. They made their escape in a big wagon with a double team.

**Women See Battle.**

Two young Washington women who had been guests at the Groves home during the evening witnessed the revolver battle between Groves, his two brothers, and a colored servant on the one hand, and a group of desperate burglars on the other.

The women, who were standing in the would-be burglar's back yard, entered the wrist of Shotton Groves. His brothers, George and Wallace, the latter of whom is but thirteen, were unharmed.

The gang escaped after an exchange of about thirty shots. It is believed that one or more of its members were injured, but all made off in the direction of Alexandria in a big wagon.

The Washington young women, whose names are withheld, were in an automobile about 125 feet away during the battle, but they were not

harm. None of the shots was fired in the direction of the machine. The two daughters of George are in Norfolk, where he owns a large hotel. Shelton, who was shot; George, who was injured; and the two daughters were the only ones at home.

Shelton and George gave a dinner party for the guests who were the most of the guests being from Washington. Shortly before midnight, the party left for the hotel. The two young women had no escorts, and Shelton and George, accompanied by their daughters, were the last to leave the dining room with them in their automobile.

When they returned to the city, Wallace was waiting for them. He was necessary to turn back to the house.

It is believed that the burglary had been planned for some time. Shelton and George Graves started away in the automobile, James Scott, who was the driver, was the son of the second floor, and who was the only person in the house at the time. The two daughters were in the parlor, getting out of bed and looking out of the window. He saw a gang of men on the second floor, looking out of the windows on the first floor. Three more men were trying to break into the first floor.

Scott got a shotgun and opened fire. The men in the yard returned the shots. The two daughters were in the dining room, which he also fired. By this time several bullets had struck the

• **Eight in Gang.**

He then got a pistol and emptied it at the crowd.

Just as Scott had exhausted his ammunition, Shelton and George returned in the automobile. They had heard the shot when some distance away and

There was a loaded revolver in the automobile. Shelton Groves seized the weapon, jumped from the automobile, and began firing. The men in the yard then turned their attention toward him, and several bullets whistled close to his head, but the only shot which took effect was the one that struck his wrist. The men then got into a large wagon.

with a white top, and drove off toward Alexandria. The fact that two of the men were wearing hats and the wagon heads to the color that they were worried.

Many men there were in the same mood but not necessarily the same. Shelton and George Graves said that they were white. The others than eight, but Scott, the colored man, said that when he saw the men, he thought to him like there were a dozen or more in the yard.

Mallice, the youngest brother, got out of the automobile with Shelton and ran to the home of Mrs. Broadus, about a half mile away.

The lad managed to tell what had occurred, and then Mr. Broadus telephoned the Alexandria police to be on the lookout for the wagon coming back, but they found no trace of them.

It was so dark in the yard that neither he nor the others could give the authorities any description of the men. They said they thought all the men were white.

## To Sing "Crucifixion."

The "Crucifixion" will occur at Trinity Lutheran Church this evening at 8 o'clock, by a double quartet and the Trinity Lutheran choir. The organist will be Mrs. E. E. Schaefer, and the choirmaster, John S. Thiemeyer.

100